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New Napa County Perlite Operation

Exploitation of perlite deposits on the Holt Ranch near Rutherford in Napa County is now underway. The National Perlite Company of Campbell has recently completed the necessary road construction to the deposits and has established a quarry face from which perlite is now being mined and shipped. An unlimited supply will soon be available. The Rutherford deposit was brought to the attention of the present operators through the Mineral Information Service of the Division of Mines. A complete account of the discovery together with a description of the deposit and a location map were published in the January 1948 issue of Mineral Information Service.

Perlite is now being expanded on a commercial scale in California. Prices of the expanded perlite at plants where it is produced range from 18½ cents to 33-1/3 cents per cubic foot in bags. Plants are located in both the Los Angeles area and the San Francisco area, and the price depends both upon the locality and the amount sold on a particular contract. Several sizes are available: coarse, medium, fine, very fine, and extra fine. The expanded perlite is being used in interior plaster and stucco, and may be mixed with either hardwall plaster or cement.

Lime Mountain Limestone Deposit, San Luis Obispo County

Limestone production for the beet-sugar industry has been greatly increased during the past few years at the Lime Mountain deposit in San Luis Obispo County, 26 miles southwest of the town of San Miguel. The 1947 output was double that of any previous year of operation, and further increases are being made in 1948. The limestone has a high calcium content and is strong and compact. Lump-stone is screened to meet size requirements of the sugar industry and large stock piles of stone of dimensions less than 4 inches are available. The lump-stock is hauled to the railroad at San Miguel by six units consisting of a truck and trailer each capable of carrying 19 tons per load. These operate 10 to 12 hours a day. The quarry is operated by Essential Industries, Inc., P. O. Box 576, Paso Robles, of which H. L. Burmeister is President and L. R. Davis is quarry superintendent.

Gold Mining Activities Near West Point, Calaveras County

The New Champion mine located 2 mi. NW of West Point has recently been renamed the Centennial by the present operating partnership of M. G. O'Hanlon and M. G. O'Hanlon, Jr. This mine has operated almost continuously, on a limited scale, since 1946. It is being developed through a 200 foot inclined shaft and drifts along the strike of the vein. The vein strikes about N 8° to 10° W and dips about 60° W. The main ore shoot has been exposed for a distance of 175 feet. It pitches southward at a moderate angle and is offset on the northern end by a fault of unknown displacement. The vein is composed mainly of pyrite, galena, and free gold in a quartz gangue. Presence of tellurides has been reported from time to time. Both